

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending. The provisional allowance of claims 4, 5, 7-9, 11-13 and 17-20 is again noted with appreciation. Reconsideration of the application in light of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

I. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1-3, 6, 10 AND 14-16 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-3, 6, 10 and 14-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over applicant's admitted prior art DE 100 64 599 (Müller et al.) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,741,777 (Jewell et al.). Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested for at least the following reasons.

- i. Müller et al. do not teach a second imaging system configured to image light emitted by the transmitting component from the intermediate plane onto an end surface of an optical waveguide, as recited in claims 1 and 14.*

Claim 1 is directed to a bidirectional transmitting and receiving device that comprises first and second imaging systems. ***The second imaging system is configured to image light that is emitted by the transmitting component from an intermediate plane onto an end surface of an optical waveguide.*** In the Office Action, the Examiner contends that the lens 7 shown in Fig. 6a of Müller et al. corresponds to the second imaging system as recited in claims 1 and 14 of the present invention. Applicants respectfully disagree, since the second imaging system of the present invention is ***configured to image light*** that is emitted by the transmitting component ***from the intermediate plane***, and no such imaging or intermediate plane is either taught or suggested by Müller et al. ***Claims 1 and 14 define the intermediate plane as the plane onto which light is imaged by the first imaging system***, wherein the light is originally emitted by the transmitting component. Thus, the first imaging

system produces an image on the intermediate plane from the emitted light (from the transmitting component), and the second imaging system further images the image produced by the first imaging system (wherein the image produced by the first imaging system is on the intermediate plane).

The lens 7 of Müller et al., on the other hand, is configured to image light ***from a transmitting component 2e*** of Figs. 6a-6c onto an end surface of an optical fiber (wherein Fig. 1 illustrates the optical fiber 6). ***Accordingly, the lens 7 of Müller et al. images light from the plane at which the transmitting component 2e is located.***

This plane, however, cannot be regarded as an “intermediate plane” as defined by claims 1 and 14, as there is neither an intermediate plane nor a first imaging system either taught or suggested in Müller et al. to produce the claimed image. Furthermore, since Müller et al. do not teach or suggest a first imaging system that images light on an intermediate plane generated by the transmitting component, Müller et al. clearly do not teach or suggest the second imaging system of the present invention, since there is no such intermediate plane in the device of Müller et al. from which light is imaged by a second imaging system.

Therefore, claims 1 and 14 are non-obvious over the cited art, and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-3, 6, 10 and 14-16 is respectfully requested.

ii. Jewell et al. do not teach or suggest a first imaging system configured to image light from the transmitting component onto an intermediate plane as defined in claims 1 and 14.

Claims 1 and 14 comprise a first imaging system that is configured to image light from the transmitting component onto an intermediate plane on which the receiving component is located. As stated above, Müller et al. are silent regarding imaging the light on an intermediate plane as defined by the present invention. ***Again, the lens 7 of Fig. 6a of Müller et al., does not image light to the optical fiber from an intermediate plane as defined in claims 1 or 14,*** but rather, the lens 7 of Müller images light from a plane containing the transmitting component 2e to the optical fiber.

Jewell et al., on the other hand, appear to teach a lens 24 for imaging light on a receiving component 39. The lens 24 of Jewell et al., however, does not correspond to the first imaging system of claims 1 and 14 of the present invention. For example, as recited in claim 1, the transmitting component emits light that is imaged by the first imaging system, wherein the light is imaged on an intermediate plane on which the receiving component is located. **In the process, the light passes through the receiving component or passes by it at a side thereof.** The lens 24 of Jewell et al., however, **images light directly on the receiving component 39 that is to be detected by receiving component, and accordingly, such light does not pass through the receiving component or at a side thereof (wherein the receiving component is located on the intermediate plane), as claimed.**

Therefore, not only does the secondary reference (Jewell et al.) not remedy the deficiencies in Müller et al., but the lens 24 of Jewell et al. cannot be considered to be the first imaging system as claimed in the present invention. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested for at least this additional reason.

iii. A combination of the teachings of Müller et al. with the teachings of Jewell et al. does not lead to the present invention.

Upon viewing the references as a whole, not only would one of ordinary skill in the art not have been motivated to combine Müller et al. with Jewell et al., but such a combination would not lead to the presently claimed invention. As neither Müller et al., nor Jewell et al. teach or suggest the claimed first imaging system and second imaging system as set forth in claims 1 and 14, and discussed above, a combination of the two references would not lead to the claimed invention. For instance, as discussed above, the first imaging device of claim 1 images light on an intermediate plane such that the light passes through or beside the receiving component, and the lens 24 of Jewell et al. **does not pass light through the receiving component 39.** As such, a combination of the teachings of Jewell et al. with Müller et al. clearly would not image the light as claimed.

Therefore, for this additional reason, claims 1-3, 6, 10 and 14-16 are non-obvious over the cited art, and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.


II. CONCLUSION

The claims currently under consideration are believed to be in condition for allowance.

Should the Examiner feel that a telephone interview would be helpful to facilitate favorable prosecution of the above-identified application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

Should any fees be due as a result of the filing of this response, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the Deposit Account Number 50-1733, MAIKP125US.

Respectfully submitted,
ESCHWEILER & ASSOCIATES, LLC

By 
Thomas G. Eschweiler
Reg. No. 36,981

National City Bank Building
629 Euclid Avenue, Suite 1210
Cleveland, Ohio 44114
(216) 502-0600

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING (37 CFR 1.8a)

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Date: February 20, 2006


Christine Gillroy